

New Jersey Department of Health Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention Infection Control Assessment and Response Team

PURPOSE: The New Jersey Department of Health's, Communicable Disease Service (CDS) received funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as part of a three-year nationwide program to reduce healthcare associated infections (HAIs). With this cooperative agreement, CDS has established the Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) team to assist health care facilities (HCFs) in reducing the number of HAIs by assessing their infection prevention programs, providing educational resources, and sharing best practices identified in New Jersey HCF throughout the state.

GOALS: In collaboration with New Jersey's HCFs, this team will assess a variety of patient care settings including acute care hospitals, long term care facilities, hemodialysis centers, and other outpatient settings. The ICAR team is currently seeking HCF of all types to participate in a non-regulatory assessment of their infection prevention program and practices. The ICAR team will not share individual assessment documentation with the Division of Health Facility Survey & Field Operations (HFSFO) unless there is an egregious violation observed. To assist facilities, the ICAR team will:

- Provide infection prevention self-assessment tools and resources to HCFs
- Facilitate discussions with facility leadership to assess infection prevention practices and program activities using CDC's standardized tool
- Detect infection prevention gaps through on-site interviews and observations
- Share best practices identified nationally and locally
- Bolster outbreak response and reporting preparedness

PROCESS:

1. Identification of participating facilities

- The ICAR team will perform assessments based on the distribution of HCFs and at risk resident populations across NJ.
- Assessments will be available to most HCFs. The ICAR team is partnering with professional organizations to identify volunteers.
- ICAR will also contact HCFs based on National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) HAI data, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) ratings, HFSFO referrals, and public health concerns, when appropriate.

2. Pre-assessment contact

- The ICAR team will coordinate a date and start time for assessment that accommodates the HCF.
- An invitation to participate in the assessment will be extended to the appropriate local health department, regional epidemiologist, and CDS staff.
- Appropriate resources and tools will be provided to the HCF and assessment team.

3. ICAR Assessment

- The assessment will take no more than one day
- The following activities will be completed by the end of the assessment day:
 - Facilitated dialogue to review CDC's Infection Control Assessment Tool
 - Observations of infection prevention practices
 - Provide post assessment feedback and educational resources

4. Post-assessment follow-up

- An ICAR team member who participated in your site visit may be assigned as your ICAR liaison
- The facility will receive a summary report of the assessment findings within approximately four weeks of the visit, if requested.
- In approximately six months after the onsite assessment, the ICAR team will contact with the HCF to discuss any changes that have been implemented following the assessment.

Facilities interested in assessing their infection prevention programs and partnering with the ICAR team can contact ICAR Infection Preventionist, Jessica Felix, BSN, RN at 609-826-5964 or Jessica.Felix@doh.nj.gov or visit www.nj.gov/health/cd/hai.shtml for more information.